

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ACDA-07

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8870

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, TU, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH FM CAGLAYANGIL'S PRESS CONFERENCE-
AUGUST 25

FOLLOWING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 25,
TURKISH FM CAGLAYANGIL HELD PRESS CONFERENCE. HE REPO-
RTEDLY SPOKE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE
IN BREIF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE
DOES NOT CONSIDER THE RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN IN THE AEGEAN
TO BE THREAT TO PEACE IN THE REGION; HE DOES NOT CONSIDER
THIS GREEK CLAIM VALID. HE THINKS PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION
BY CONSENSUS BEARS OUT THAT TURKEY IS RIGHT IN THE DISPUTE.
HE SAID TURKEY HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE BEST WAY TO SETTLE
THE DISPUTE IS THROUGH "MEANINGFUL BILATERAL
NEGOTIATIONS." HE SEES NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE MATTER
IS CLOSED FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING. HE SAID BEING NEIGHBORS
IS NOT ALWAYS EASY; THAT TURKEY AND GREECE HAVE HAD THEIR
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DISPUTES, MORE OF THEM IN RECENT YEARS, BUT THAT TURKEY

GOES ON TRYING TO GET TOGETHER BILATERALLY RATHER THAN TAKE THE PROBLEMS TO INTERNATIONAL FORUMS IN THE BELIEF THAT THIS DOES NOT BENEFIT EITHER COUNTRY. THE ONLY IMPORTANT PROVISION OF THE ADOPTED RESOLUTION IN HIS VIEW IS THE CALLING ON THE TWO COUNTRIES TO SOLVE THEIR DISPUTES THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

HE REPORTED MEETING THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER RIGHT AFTER THE COUNCIL AND THE TWO AGREED TO START TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION IMMEDIATELY BY SEEKING A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE DATES TO MEET; HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO GET INTO DETAIL ON THIS. HE NOTED THAT TURKEY HAS A LONG COASTLINE ON THE AEGEAN WHERE 10,000 PEOPLE LIVE; THERE ARE 3000 SMALL ISLANDS; IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF LEGAL RULES AND PROVISIONS HE ADDED. " THIS IS A POLITICAL QUESTION." THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES IN HIS VIEW EITHER THE TWO COUNTRIES GET TOGETHER AND JOINTLY EXPLORE AND EXPLOIT THE RESOURCES OF THE AEGEAN, OR ELSE DISAGREE AND TURN TO INTL. FORUMS. HE PREFERS THE FIRST.

QUESTION AND ANSWER-

SISMIK ONE-ASKED IF IT WILL STAY IN PORT UNTIL THE DISPUTE IS SOLVED, HE SAID IT HAS UNDERTAKEN A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FINISHED.

NEXT GREEK-TURK NEGOTIATIONS-HE WOULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN ON WHAT HE AND THE GREEK FOR. MIN. DECIDED ABOUT TIME AND PLACE FOR NEGOTIATIONS; SAID NO DEFINITE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED YET; THAT THEY HAVE AGREED TO TALK; THAT PLACE AND TIME MUST NOW BE REALIZED; THAT WHAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED WILL BE WHAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS REQUESTED. HE DOES NOT DISCOUNT OTHER TURK/GREEK PROBLEMS ALSO BEING DISCUSSED BUT WOULD NOT SAY IF CYPRUS WAS ONE OF THEM.

MEETINGS WITH KISSINGER-FURTHER GOOD OFFICES BY SECRETARY?- KISSINGER HAS EXPLAINED WHAT HIS FUNCTION WAS; THAT OF A MEDIATOR. KISSINGER TRIED IN RECENT DISPUTE TO MOVE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO TRY AND EXPRESS THE VIEWS OF ONE TO THE OTHER. THE SAME EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE BY OTHERS. SINCE THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOW BEGIN , HE SEES NO FUTHER ROLE FOR KISSINGER GOOD OFFICES ANY MORE. TERRORISM/INSTANBUL HIJACKING INCIDENT-HE SAID THERE IS NO COUNTRY IN THE WORLD THAT WOULD DEFEND TERRORISM, BUT WOULD NOT GO FURTHER TO SAY WHETHER HE THINKS NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD AGAIN DISS IT. HE HAD NO COMMENT ON ISRAEL'S LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT, SAYING HE HAD NOT SEEN IT, AND WOULD NOT COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS. THE GREEK TURK DISPUTE-IT CONCERNS THE WHOLE CONTINENTAL SHELF BUT ALSO INVOLVES AIR SPACE, NAVIGATION, SUB SURFACE AND SURGACE PROBLEMS. BECUASE THERE IS NO LEGAL INTERNATIONAL DEFINITION AS YET OF WHAT CONSTITUTES THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF NOTHING CAN BE RESOLVED; NO RIGHTS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. UNQUOTE

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